Conceptualizing participation in the new environment: re-inventing communication for / as participation and

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The partly media induced, so-called refugee crisis in 2015 triggered various societal effects in European societies. Engagement as well as emotional involvement, including massive rejection marked the landscape and are still tangible today (December 2018) (d'Artis/Patrizio, 2017; Scholz 2017). Drawing from interaction analysis, inspired by sociocultural theory, this talk focuses on initiatives launched in order to "help", "engage (with)" or "foster" participation and integration of the concerned newcomers in Luxembourg. More specifically, we look into modes of communication which have been used to keep in touch with newcomers. As stated by the UNHCR, migrants themselves are in general well connected via smartphones or other devices/means, however, particular use and ways of relying on such devices for digital practices with regard to becoming/being part of the new environment have not been assessed.

Given the particular situation in Luxemburg, two aspects have to be taken into consideration. Firstly, Luxemburg deploys an "interactive, participative vision" regarding newcomers, (cf. Loi du 16 décembre 2008), encouraging both, the newcomers *and* the host society alike, to actively take part in the country's participatory frameworks such as local commissions or voluntary work, for instance. Moreover, Luxembourg is an officially trilingual country, which in fact operates in at least five languages on a daily basis (Luxemburgisch, French, German, English, Portuguese). Given that almost 50% of its residents hold non-Luxemburgish passports, the "global" reality of residency resonates in the high level of IT density. Luxemburg shows important numbers of IT/mobile devices per capita and a 98% level of access to the internet on an everyday basis (https://data.oecd.org/ict/internet-access.htm).

Striving to provide answers to the overall question of if and how engagement with newcomers via digital means is designed, implemented, maintained and assessed, this talk raises several questions with regard to concrete interaction and communication initiatives with newcomers since 2015 in Luxemburg. More specifically, we address the following aspects based on quantitative (i.e., demographics, number and time of contact etc.) and qualitative data (i.e., interview data, surveys, discourse analysis of social media contributions and advertisement of projects): Who are the newcomers? Which modes of communication do they actively use/take part in? How does the journey of migration affect the communication behaviour) Which languages are used? Is, and if so how, are languages affected by media use? Which topics of communication prevail/are needed? Which ways for communication prove to be functioning for the newcomers and/or the host society with regard to participation, agency and integration? Which technical insights can be gained (specific applications vs. net)?